



Being an older teen in the system can feel hopeless. You can help her transition to adulthood.

Be there.

Fostering is making a commitment to be meaningful to a child's Lifetime.

A Child in Your Community Needs You!



All children grow and thrive best when they are with a family. You could be that family. Open your heart and home by becoming a foster parent.

Additional Information

Informational session are held the second Tuesday of every other month at 7 p.m. at

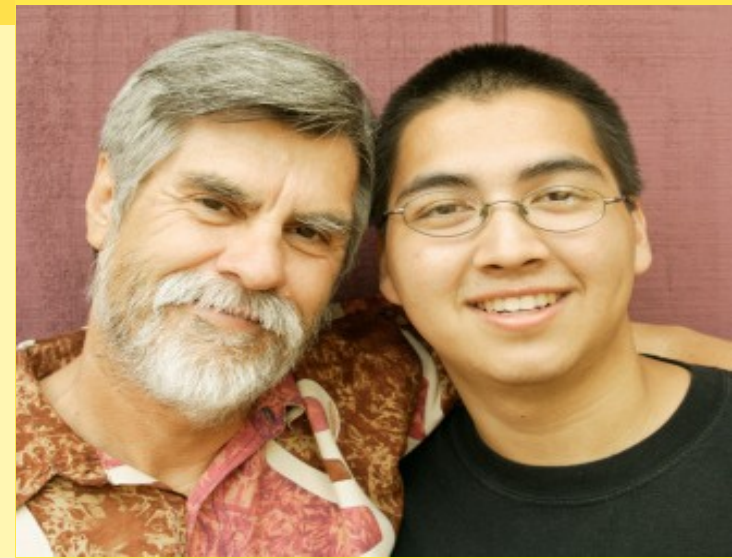
**Loudoun County Department of
Family Services
Division of Foster Care & Adoption**

**102 Heritage Way
Leesburg, Virginia 20176
recruiter.fca@loudoun.gov
703 777-0386**

(except national holidays and inclement weather days when the Loudoun County Public Schools are closed)



Foster Parenting:
*It's not what you do for
a living,
It's what you do for a*



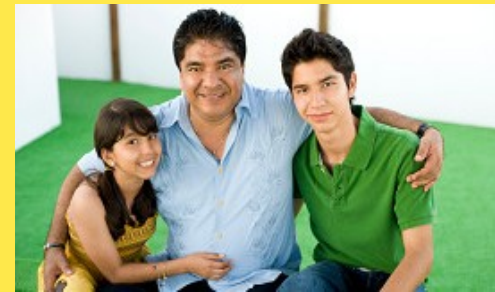
**Loudoun County
Foster Parent
Program**



She just wants someone to listen. By being there, you can teach her that her voice matters.

Successful foster families are:

- Committed
- Encouraging
- Patient
- Flexible
- Have a strong support network
- Able to work as part of a professional team that includes birth parents



How do you become a foster parent?

Begin by attending an information session to learn about the foster parenting process. Followed by an in-depth assessment process which allows you and the agency to mutually determine if fostering a child through our program is the right fit for your household.

The mutual assessment process also includes:

- Criminal record check at local, state and federal levels
- Verification of income that indicates you are currently able to meet your expenses
- 30 hours of training to help you develop an understanding of the trauma the children and youth have endured and skills for best relating to them.

What is the goal of foster care?

The primary goal of foster care is to provide a safe place for a child or a youth while the birth parents obtain stability.

What is the role of the foster family?

Foster parents provide a temporary, safe home for children and youth in crisis, a place to regain trust in the world, a sense of self-worth, a connection to a family, and to a community that offers guidance and understanding.

Who are the children in foster care?

They are...

Children who may have experienced abuse, neglect, or lived in families in need of supportive services. They range in age, most are age 11 up to 21.

Many of these children and youth are filled with fear, anger, confusion, or a sense of powerlessness at having been removed from the only home they have ever known.



Foster families willing to accommodate older children, teens and sibling groups are in high demand.



What is the purpose of the training process?

The purpose of the foster care training is to:

- Prepare you and your household for fostering a child
- Create a basis for teamwork between you and the agency
- Create a supportive network with other foster parents and child welfare staff who will be able to help you throughout your foster care journey